

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /021 W
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P 191505Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8038

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, BMEP, NI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: NIGERIAN EXPORT REFINERIES

REF: (A) STATE 034888; (B) LAGOS 01422; (C) STATE 017483

1. WE VERY MUCH REGRET THAT QUESTIONS WE PUT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR GULF NIGERIA ABOUT POSSIBLE GULF INTEREST IN NIGERIAN EXPORT REFINERIES, AS INDICATED TO US IN STATE 017483, HAVE EMBARRASSED GULF PITTSBURGH SOURCE THAT REPORTED THAT INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT. AS ALREADY NOTED STATE 034888, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOTHING IN EARLIER STATE MESSAGE TO SUGGEST THAT GULF NIGERIA WAS NOT PARTY TO GULF PITTSBURGH THINKING OR THAT GULF PITTSBURGH SOURCE HAD MADE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT ON BASIS THAT PRECLUDED EMBASSY SHARING WITH GULF NIGERIA.

2. UNLESS THERE ARE REASONS NOT TO DO SO, WE CUSTOMARILY COORDINATE WITH GULF NIGERIA, AND OTHER U.S. FIRMS ACTIVE HERE, IN MATTERS AFFECTING THEIR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA, AND THIS COORDINATION USUALLY INVOLVES AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. IF THERE ARE OCCASIONS ON WHICH DEPARTMENT WISHES THAT WE WITHHOLD FROM THAT EXCHANGE INFORMATION ABOUT FIRMS' PLANS OR ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA THAT DEPARTMENT HAS OBTAINED FROM U.S. PARENT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT WOULD SO INDICATE AT TIME THAT INFORMATION TRANSMITTED TO US.

3. IN OUR VIEW EMBASSY AND STATE/COMMERCE CAN EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT U.S. FIRMS' COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA ONLY

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IN CLOSE COORDINATION NIGERIAN AFFILIATES AS WELL AS U.S.

PARENTS, AND WHILE WE ACCEPT THAT ON OCCASION WE OR STATE/
COMMERCE WILL WISH TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION FROM PARENT OR
AFFILIATE, WE TRUST THAT THESE WILL BE THE EXCEPTIONAL
OCCASIONS.
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